resources, the Govt. should exercise restraint in setting up more Central Universities. In view of this, the Central Government is not in favour of setting up of new Central Universities/converting the existing Universities into Central Universities. At present, there is also no proposal to convert the Utkal University into a Central University.

Raids on KV Offices in Bhopal

2054. SHRI ABDUL GAIYUR QURESHI : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI had raided the offices of Kendriya Vidyalaya number 1, Bhopal, last month, following complaints of numerous irregularities;

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities and the complaints looked into;

(c) whether action has been taken against any officer by CBI or KVS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA] : (A) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of the case have not yet been received from the CBI. The information will be placed on the Table of the House after getting the same from them.

PROMOTION OF LITERACY

2055. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what new initiatives have been taken by Government so far to enhance literacy rate and to reduce gap in male and female literacy rate in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that country's literacy rate has been enhanced to 63.58 per cent and female literacy is up by 14.8 per cent;

(c) if so, whether any special focus has been given on promotion of literacy among adult women, Scheduled Castes/Tribes and Backward Classes in the country; and

(d) whether Government have any schemes to utilise the services of recently retired TGTs/B.Eds in Union Territories/States like Delhi, Rajasthan and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA] : (a) New initiatives taken by Government are as follows :

(1) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan—SSA is a holistic and convergent approach to implement universalization of Elementary Education in a mission mode with a district focus.

Some of the special interventions for the girl child are

- Interventions for early childhood care and education.
- Special mainstreaming camps for out-of-school girls/SCs/STs children under the Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE) Component.
- Mahila Samakhya like interventions from the innovation fund.
- Provision of process-based community participation with a focus on the participation of women and SCs/STs.
- Provision of context specific innovative interventions for girl's education and
- education of SCs/STs children upto Rs. 15 lakh per intervention per year and
- upto Rs. 50 lakhs in a district in a particular year.
- Free textbooks to all girls/SCs/STs children up to class VIII.
- At least 50% of the teachers to be appointed have to be women.

(2) Mahila Samakhya—Mahila Samakhya Programme builds capacities among groups of women and contributes towards empowerment of women in rural areas, particularly socially and economically marginalized groups.

(3) National Literacy Mission—NLM seeks to attain full literacy *i.e.*, sustainable threshold level of 75% by 2005. It seeks to achieve this goal by imparting functional literacy to non-literates in 15-35 age group. In the Literacy programmes, 60% of learners are women and around 60% volunteers are also women.

(b) As per Census 2001 (provisional), India has made significant progress in the field of literacy during the decade since the last census in 1991. The literacy rate in 2001 has been recorded at 65.38% as against 52.21% in 1991. The 13.17 percentage points increase in literacy rate during the period is the highest increase in any decade.

During this period female literacy increased by 14.8 percentage points *i.e.* from 39.3% to 54.16% as against 11.7 percentage points i.e. 64.1% to 75.8% increase in male literacy. Out of 858 million people in 7+ age group, 562 million are now literate and out of which 225 million are women. The gap in male-female literacy rates has decreased from24.8 percentage points in 1991 to 21.7 percentage points in 2001.

(c) SSA aims to bridge all gender and social gaps at primary stage by 2007 and that elementary education level by 2010.

Mahila Samakhya is a programme for the educational empowerment of women in rural areas particularly women from socially and economically marginalized groups.

Major thrust of the NLM programmes is on promotion of literacy among women, SCs, STs and other disadvantaged section.

(d) Under the literacy programmes, there is no such specific scheme at present.

Smart Schools

†2056. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :

Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to establish Smart Schools all over the country, in order to provide quality education, by making use of computers and other technological devices;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the number of smart schools to be set up in each State, State-wise; and

(c) the norms prescribed to establish a Smart School in a particular place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA] : (a) to (c) Development of SMART Schools in field of Information Technology is one of the components of the proposed scheme of Computer Literacy And Studies in Schools (CLASS).

KVS and NVS would convert one school per State/UT into a SMART school. A grant of not more than Rs. 25 lakhs would be given per SMART school.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.